

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 21-39 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 29, and 39 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Guadalupe-McCall during the personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the personal interview appears below.

Claims 1, 2, 21, 23-26, 28-31 and 33-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Henshaw, U.S. Patent No. 6,481,115, claims 1, 2, 20, 21, 23-31 and 33-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ellis, U.S. Patent No. 4,332,087 and claims 22 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Henshaw. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

During the interview, the Examiner agreed that Ellis does not disclose a pre-formed continuous flexible ring as recited in amended claims 1, 29 and 39. Ellis' measuring device 21 includes a flexible elongate member having two ends, an origin end and an termination end, and requires a person to stretch the device and hold it together while taking measurements. Thus, Ellis' device is never pre-formed to be a continuous flexible ring.

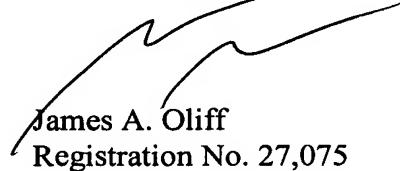
During the interview, the Examiner also agreed that Henshaw does not disclose a pre-formed continuous flexible ring that is able to self-retain about a circular machine part without any attachment device as recited in amended claims 1, 29 and 39. Henshaw requires mounting screws 8 to mount the ring 3 onto the shaft 6. Without the mounting screws 8, the ring 3 would fall off the shaft 6 if a machine part was turned on its side or upside down.

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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